

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15
CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06
PRS-01 OMB-01 SSM-03 /068 W
-----100247Z 003671 /15

R 091608Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6613
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
USMISSION SINAI

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, IS
SUBJECT: PERES ELECTED LABOR PARTY CHAIRMAN

1. THE LABOR PARTY'S LEADERSHIP BUREAU ON JUNE 7
ELECTED SHIMON PERES PARTY CHAIRMAN. THE CHAIRMAN-
SHIP IS A NEW POSITION WHICH SUPERSEDES THE JOB OF
SECRETARY-GENERAL, ABOUT TO BE VACATED BY MEIR
ZARMI. REPORTEDLY UNDER CONSIDERATION IS A PROPOSAL
TO NAME YIGAEAL ALLON LEADER OF THE ALIGNMENT FACTION
IN THE KNESSET. HOWEVER, A DECISION ON THIS AS WELL
AS ON CREATION OF A SMALL LEADERSHIP INNER CIRCLE
WAS LEFT FOR CENTRAL COMMITTEE ACTION, PRESUMABLY
AFTER THE JUNE 21 HISTADRUT ELECTION.

2. THE REORGANIZATION MAKES PERES THE ORGANIZATIONAL
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HEAD OF THE PARTY AND FORMALIZES THE LEADERSHIP
HE HAS EXERCISED SINCE REPLACING RABIN AS THE
PARTY'S CANDIDATE FOR PRIME MINISTER. HOWEVER,
SINCE THE ALIGNMENT'S ELECTORAL DEFEAT AND RABIN'S
RETURN TO AN ACTIVE ROLE AS PRIME MINISTER OF
THE CARETAKER GOVERNMENT, THERE HAVE BEEN
INDICATIONS THAT RABIN MEANS TO KEEP HIS IRON

IN THE POLITICAL FIRE.HE IS NOW RECOGNIZED AS
SHARING LEADERSHIP WITH ALLON OF LABOR'S ANTI-
PERES CAMP--A SEGMENT OF THE PARTY WHICH HE LED
PRIOR TO HIS STEPPING DOWN AS PRIME MINISTER
CANDIDATE IN APRIL.

3. AS PARTY CHAIRMAN PERES WILL PROBABLY BE IN A
STRONGER POSITION TO KEEP RABIN IN CHECK, BUT MUCH
DEPENDS ON THE RESULTS OF THE HISTADRUT ELECTION.
IF THE ALIGNMENT DOES WELL, PERES' POSITION WILL
BE IMPROVED.A POOR SHOWING WILL PROBABLY
PRECIPITATE FAR-REACHING CHANGES IN THE PARTY
THAT WILL NO DOUBT AFFECT PERES AMONG OTHERS.
PENDING THE HISTADRUT POLL THERE APPEARS TO BE
A CEASE-FIRE IN JOCKEYING FOR POSITION BETWEEN
THE PERES AND ALLON-RABIN CAMPS.
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Message Attributes

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